

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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LONDON FOR AMBASSADOR TOON

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, IS, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET MEDIA ON ISRAELI GOVERNMENT

REFS: A. MOSCOW 7109, B. MOSCOW 7466

SUMMARY: AFTER SLIGHT INITIAL VACILLATION, SOVIET MEDIA TREAT-
MENT OF LIKUD VICTORY AND NEW ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAS NOW
SETTLED ON A NEGATIVE EVALUATION. U.S. INTENTION AND ABILITY
TO PUT DISTANCE BETWEEN BEGIN'S POSITION ON OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES AND U.S. POLICY IN THAT REGARD IS ALSO VIEWED WITH
SKEPTICISM. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING INITIAL, SLIGHTLY AMBIGUOUS ARTICLES ON
LIKUD VICTORY AND FUTURE OUTLOOK FOR NEW ISRAELI GOVERNMENT
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(REF A AND B), SOVIET MEDIA IN JUNE BEGAN TO REFLECT AN
INCREASINGLY CRITICAL LINE TOWARD BOTH BEGIN'S REGIME AND
U.S. ATTEMPTS TO DELINEATE U.S. POLICY TOWARD ISRAEL
AND THE ME IN GENERAL. TWO RECENT ARTICLES ARE INDICATIVE
OF CLEAR TREND WHICH HAS EMERGED: "COMMENTATOR'S
COLUMN" IN JUNE 30 PRAVDA BY YU. GLUKHOV AND
"DANGEROUS SHIFT" BY G. PAVLOV IN JULY 1 NEW TIMES.

LATTER ARTICLE DESCRIBES "EXTREMIST" POSITIONS HELD BY BEGIN AND OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND CITES RECENT STATEMENT BY LEADERSHIP OF ISRAELI CP THAT PRESENT GOVERNMENT CAN BE MAINTAINED IN POWER ONLY THANKS TO ECONOMIC AND MILITARY SUPPORT OF U.S.

2. GLUKHOV'S PRAVDA COLUMN, SUBTITLED "CABINET OF SUPERHAWKS," ALSO CITES ISRAELI CP ON LIKUD PROGRAM AS REPRESENTING "THREAT TO DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES, STRENGTHENING OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ARAB POPULATION, SHARPENING OF OCCUPATION POLICY, AND COURSE TOWARD NEW WAR IN ME." GLUKOV NOTES RECENT STATEMENTS COMING FROM WASHINGTON, EVALUATED BY "PART" OF WESTERN PRESS AS EFFORT TO ACHIEVE OUTWARD U.S. DISASSOCIATION FROM BEGIN'S POSITION. HE ADDS, HOWEVER, THAT "MANY" POLITICAL OBSERVERS EXPRESS SKEPTICISM IN THIS REGARD. HE GOES ON TO CITE (A) U.S. INTENTION TO SUPPLY ISRAEL WITH \$115 MILLION IN NEW ARMS AND MILITARY SUPPLIES, AND (B) NEW U.S. LAW PROHIBITING U.S. FIRMS FROM PARTICIPATING IN BOYCOTT AGAINST ISRAEL. THESE ACTS, HE CONCLUDES, DEMONSTRATE "SPECIAL CHARACTER" OF U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS.
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
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